[3rd September 1928

A.—(*a*) & (*d*) It is proposed to depute an Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests and a Range Officer to the Philippines for five months from about December 1928 for the purpose of studying modern logging methods. The personnel of the deputation has not yet been decided.

(*b*) & (*c*) Do not arise.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Are there any officers who are working out this scheme who are conversant with modern method of logging?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I want to have notice."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"May I know with reference to the answer to clause (*d*) whether the Government are prepared to depute only Indian members for this purpose?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Government have not come to any conclusion on that point. After consultation with the Chief Conservator of Forests they will come to a conclusion."

Marine

Progress of the Tuticorin Harbour Works Scheme.

* 36 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) in what stage of develcpment the Harbour Works Scheme at Tuticorin is;

(*b*) what future development is contemplated, and at what cost;

(*c*) what contribution the Port Trust is expected to make or has decided to make; and

(*d*) what has been the total expenditure on the works up to date, and how the capital and interest are repaid or are to be repaid?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The hon. Member is referred to the Prees Communiqué on Tuticorin Harbour issued by Government on 7th March 1928. The Government have since asked the Harbour Engineer-in-Chief to prepare separate detailed estimates for the cost of construction and maintenance of a complete harbour at (*a*) Hare Island and (*b*) the site fronting Tuticorin suggested by the Committee of Harbour Engineering Experts.

(*d*) The expenditure on Capital works up to 31st March 1928 against the estimates prepared in 1925 is Rs. 25,95,576. Loans aggregating 23 lakhs have been taken by the Trust from Government for the execution of the works. These loans are repayable in 30 annual equated payments which include both principal and interest.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"May I enquire whether the Government have in view two separate harbours, one at Hare Island and the other at Tuticorin alternatively, or whether they are going to put this as a combined scheme?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The Government have not come to any conclusion in the matter. They have called for estimates on both the harbours."

3rd September 1928]

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know whether it is under contemplation to leave this scheme to the Government of India as they will take it up if the cost exceeds more than a crore of rupees ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I want notice."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know on whom the cost of constructing these harbours will fall ultimately ? The preliminary expenses only have come to five lakhs and when the harbour is completed, may I know on whom the whole burden will fall ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" On the persons who spend the money."

Expenditure on the Harbour works at Cochin.

* 37 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) in what stage of development the Harbour works at Cochin stands and the expenditure up to date and estimated in future;

(*b*) what has been the excess of expenditure over the estimates originally made and revised later on, on what grounds and in what circumstances ;

(*c*) whether any of the items of expenditure were due to the carelessness of the officer that had prepared the plans or were not foreseen by him at the time ; and

(*d*) if so, who is to be held responsible for the loss ?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the report of the Harbour Engineer-in-Chief published with G.O. No. 286, Finance (Marine), dated 17th May 1928, which has been placed on the Editors' Table, and to the answer to question No. 1025 given at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 1st November 1927.

In the inner harbour, about 35 acres were reclaimed by the end of May to a height of seven feet or over about low-water mark. Reclamation of further areas was also in progress.

The actual expenditure on capital works up to the end of June 1928 was Rs. 44,37,754.

The reasons for the variations between the original and revised estimates were given in full in the answer to question No. 1025 referred to above.

Mr J. A. SALDANHA :—" With reference to clause (*b*) of this question, may I know on whom the penalty will fall for this excess expenditure over the estimates ? It was said that there was some mistake by some officer ? Who is responsible for this loss ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not admit the correctness of the premises of my hon. Friend. I do not admit that anybody has made a mistake."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" It was admitted in answer to another question. I ask who is to be held responsible ? Will the hon. the Law Member make enquiries on this subject ? "